Dec. 3, 1898 - 10 M - #19. = Evangelist.

Action of the Presbytery of Brooklyn in Regard to Mormonism

Requesting all Corresponding Ecclesiastical Bodies in our Country to take similar action.

In its issue of August 12th, 1897, the *Brooklyn Daily Eagle* published an editorial nearly one column in length, entitled "Don't Fear the Mormons." The said editorial contained the following statements: "Some people on Long Island are needlessly alarmed over an irruption of two or three Mormon missionaries into their neighborhood, and we learn that Christians are opposing the preaching of these people. Evidently the alarmists are unaware that Mormons are Christians, and pretty good Christians, too. . . .

"The religion that is preached by the missionaries on Long Island is the religion of Christ, and there is not a word in it that can be objected to. . . It should be known that polygamy is no part of the Mormon religion, for when that fact is understood, the scare will die out," etc.

In its issue of May 1st, 1898, the *Eagle* published a similar editorial entitled "Growth of the Mormon Church." The latter editorial contained the following statements: "No alarm need be felt over the discovery of an increase in the Mormon Church. It is just about as much of a menace to the nation as an increase in Presbyterianism or Catholicism would be. As a Church, that of Mormon has a perfect right to live. There is in its creed no unsound doctrine, either as regards Christian faith or morality. . . . The Mormon Church differs from some of the other sects in that its religion is largely practical. One is not expected to be a good Mormon and a good scamp at the same time," etc., etc.

In view of the fact that the attention of the Presbytery of Brooklyn has been called to the foregoing and other similar statements which are being circulated here in the East by the Mormon missionaries and the newspapers whose use the Mormons manage to secure, this Presbytery would call attention to a statement on "The Present Situation in Utah" adopted by the Presbytery of Utah at its regular semi-annual meeting held at Manti, Utah, August 29th, 1898, and published in *The Kinsman* of Salt Lake City, Utah, for September 3d, 1898. The Presbytery of Utah, as everybody knows, is a responsible and conservative body of ministers and elders like our own Presbytery.

Being on the ground and in possession of all the facts, we commend to the public their statement as true and absolutely worthy of all confidence.

The statement of the Presbytery of Utah contains seven articles, of which we quote the third, fourth and seventh.

"Third: Another phase of present day Utah is that the people are being urged to 'live their religion.' This would seem a desirable thing to do. Unfortunately, however, this phrase has an application here other than that understood by people unacquainted with the 'mysteries of Mormonism.' One 'lives his religion' in Utah who has entered the 'celestial order of marriage' and 'cohabits' with *all* his wives. Of such cases more than two thousand have come to our notice, and this *living* has resulted in the birth of more than one thousand children since statehood was granted, January 4th, 1896. See article in *The Independent* for March 3d last, by Professor M E. Jones.

"Fourth: That this 'situation' may be perpetuated, and this 'peculiar institution' flourish, that ubiquitous thing known as 'church influence' so affects men that those who could testify to this lawlessness are silent, juries refuse to find indictments, and officers make no arrests. Hence religious adultery goes unpunished and the 'kingdom' grows apace. From the heads of the Church down polygamy flourishes.

"Seventh: One thing more. These 'missionaries' carry a veiled 'gospel.' They do not say all they have to say in the first sermon—nor in any 'field' sermon. They do not even give the people 'meat'—much less '*strong* meat.' They feed 'milk.' It is safer. Better adapted to weak and sensitive stomachs. (See *Doctrine and Covenants*, Sections 19 and 41.) Faith, repentance, baptism by immersion for the forgiveness of sins 'by one having authority,' and imposition of hands, are the stock doctrines commanded by Joseph Smith and his successors to be taught 'to the world,' while the Adam-god, immediate revelation, infallibility of the priesthood, divinity of the Book of Mormon, 'celestial order of marriage,' God as a polygamist, Christ the husband of three wives, salvation on the ground of merit, redemption of the dead by vicarious baptism, the duty of tithes, implicit obedience to the priesthood in *all things*, personal or 'blood atonement' for the pardon of the unpardonable sin, and such like doctrines, they reserve until the digestion of the new convert is improved and he can take 'strong meat.' 'A word to the wise is sufficient.' To ordinary mortals a more brief statement of 'the present situation in Utah' appears inadequate.

"Done by order of Presbytery, at Manti, August 29, 1898.

"Attest : G. M. HARDY, Moderator.

"A. T. RANKIN, Stated Clerk pro tem."

The Mormon Church is a vast political machine. It has all along had a dream of "universal dominion"; and it teaches its devotees that all civil government is illegitimate, except as officered and controlled by the Mormon priesthood. (See Pratt's *Kingdom of God*; Pratt's *Key to Theology*, Chapter VIII; *Journal of Discourses*, Vol. I, page 224 and on; same series, Vol. II, page 189; same series, Vol. V, page 186 and on; *New Witness for God*, published 1895, page 187 and on.) It teaches that those who render absolute and unquestioning obedience to the Mormon priesthood are the people of God, and that all others are His enemies who will merit His righteous judgments.

This so-called church makes use of its plausible religious formularies in order to hold its people under its absolute sway; and to do this successfully, it must teach such doctrines as will appeal most strongly to the natural man, and to his baser nature at that.

In addition to the doctrines mentioned in the quotation from the Presbytery of Utah, the Mormon Church teaches that sin is necessary to human progress, "one of the great steps toward exaltation" (*Catechism*, Chapter VIII), thus furnishing a plausible excuse for its own crimes and for the personal sins of its followers. It teaches that men may become gods by practicing adultery under the euphonious title of "plural or celestial marriage." (*Doctrine and Covenants*, Section 132 : 19, 20.) It teaches that "all spirit is matter" (*Doctrine and Covenants*, Sec. 131, v. 7), and denies the existence of the spiritual as distinguished from the material, and teaches that "to affirm that anything is not material is to affirm that it does not exist" (Pratt's *Key to Theology*, Chapter V), thus encouraging men to live in sin and sensuality here in order to gain a sensual heaven hereafter. (*New Witness for God*, pp. 460–466.)

This vile institution pretended to give up both polygamy and priesthood rule in politics, in order to secure statehood for Utah, but has since betrayed the confidence reposed in it by our government in both these respects. This is perfectly in keeping with the systematic lying and perjury and the unblushing treason which have characterized the Mormon Church in all its history.

Mormonism is both anti-Christian and anti-American. It is a school of immorality and treason (Pratt's *Kingdom of God* and *Key to Theology*, pp. 68, 69 and 73). It is in its very essence the crudest materialism and the grossest sensuality, immorality and blasphemy masquerading in the garb of religion. It is not satisfied with degrading its own people, until social purity is almost a stranger among them, but is reaching out after our children all over this land and winning them, too, by the thousands by means of the most unmitigated and most brazen falsehoods and deception.

Mormonism is a huge religio-political monstrosity, which is doing its utmost to destroy the Christian home, to undermine the foundations of this Christian republic, and even to make shipwreck of the souls of men in order to satisfy its unholy ambitions and to accomplish its unrighteous purposes.

From these well-known and well-established facts, an intelligent Christian public can surely judge whether such an institution with its 2,000 missionaries, ramifying our entire land, is a menace to our republic or not; and in the light of such well-known and well-established facts it is a great mystery to this Presbytery, which it would be exceedingly interesting to have solved, how any newspaper desiring the approval of a law-abiding and self-respecting community, can endorse Mormonism, or the Mormon missionaries as worthy of the confidence of decent and respectable people.

Resolved, That this action of Presbytery concerning Mormonism be sent to all the corresponding ecclesiastical bodies of our country, and that they be requested to take similar action, and to have it published, as news, simultaneously in the entire local press, and that in preparing their action they have liberty to use any portion of this action they may desire.

LEWIS RAY FOOTE, D.D.,
J. GLENTWORTH BUTLER, D.D.,
Rev. NEWELL WOOLSEY WELLS,
Rev. JOSEPH DUNN BURRELL,
Ruling Elders { CHAS. HENDERSON,
NATHAN ROBERTS,
DUDLEY S. ANNESS.
Committee of Presbytery.

Done in Presbytery this 3d day of October, 1898.

Attest : J. A. BILLINGSLEY, Moderator.
NEWELL WOOLSEY WELLS, Stated Clerk.

Adopted by a *unanimous rising* vote.

The foregoing action of the Brooklyn Presbytery has been endorsed by the following :

Long Island Baptist Association, numbering 100 ministers.

Methodist Ministers' Association of New York City, numbering 250 ministers and representing three Conferences.

Copies of this Action may be obtained at Literature Department of the Board of Home Missions, 156 Fifth Avenue, New York. Price 30c. per hundred.

WOMAN'S BOARD OF HOME MISSIONS
OF THE
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH,
156 Fifth Avenue, New York, N. Y.

IN the providence of God we are brought to face a phase of Mormon aggression that must be met in no half-hearted manner.

The election of Brigham H. Roberts, an open and avowed polygamist, to the House of Representatives of the United States by the people of Utah, is a gross insult to the Nation. The unseating of Brigham H. Roberts and an educational campaign against Mormonism, exposing the pernicious doctrines taught by that church and its two thousand missionaries, scattered over our entire country, is a present undertaking of the Woman's Board of Home Missions of the Presbyterian Church

The increase of the Mormon church, a treasonable institution, hostile to the best interests of our country, has been so rapid of late years that if continued at the same ratio for twenty years to come, they will accomplish their avowed purpose and hold the balance of power in every State of our Union.

If this movement of the Woman's Board has your sympathy as a Christian patriot, will you

kindly aid us so far as possible? Any contribution, however small, will be gladly received, and may be sent to any of the following members of the Board:

Mrs. DARWIN R. JAMES,
226 Gates Ave., Brooklyn, N. Y.
Mrs. H. M. ALEXANDER,
10 West 54th St., New York City.
Mrs. S. B. BROWNELL,
322 West 56th St., New York City.
Mrs. S. F. HALLOCK,
26 East 54th St., New York City.
Mrs. J. M. HAM,
278 St. James Place, Brooklyn, N. Y.
Mrs. I. E. HASBROUCK,
364 Carlton Ave., Brooklyn, N. Y.
Mrs. W. E. HONEYMAN,
56 Lincoln Place, Plainfield, N. J.
Mrs. L. D. MASON,
171 Joralemon St., Brooklyn, N. Y.
Mrs. T. J. MORGAN,
414 Warburton Ave., Yonkers, N. Y.
Mrs. W. A. NELSON,
288 Broadway, Paterson, N. J.
Mrs. A. W. PARSONS,
Rye, N. Y.
Mrs. JOHN SINCLAIR,
16 East 66th St., New York City.
Mrs. G. P. SLADE,
62 East 66th St., New York City.
Mrs. A. R. SMITH,
66 West 38th St., New York City.
Mrs. C. B. TOMPKINS,
504 Fifth Ave., New York City.
Miss V. M. WHITE,
Roselle, N. J.

Approved by Executive Officers of the Board of Home Missions of the Presbyterian Church:

(*Signed*) CHARLES L. THOMPSON, *Secretary.*
JOHN DIXON, *Ass't Secretary.*
H. C. OLIN, *Treasurer.*

523 WILLOUGHBY AVENUE,
BROOKLYN, N. Y.

December 1, 1898.

Dear Brother:

The enclosed matter is sent to you by order of the Presbytery of Brooklyn with the request that you present it to your ecclesiastical body for its consideration at your earliest opportunity.

The matter is all the more important because of the election of Brigham H. Roberts, an avowed polygamist, with at least three wives, as a member of the 56th Congress.

Inasmuch as there is at least a possibility of an extra session of the new Congress soon after the 4th of March, it is important that the public sentiment of the country be thoroughly aroused before that time.

An ex-Member of Congress in my church tells me that the most telling thing with a Congressman is a personal letter from his constituents. Every one who receives this letter should influence each of his friends to write a personal letter to his Congressman-elect for the 56th Congress to protest against Roberts of Utah being seated.

Faithfully yours,

LEWIS RAY FOOTE,

Chairman of Presbytery's Committee.

P.S. Please kindly place the accompanying statement to Women's Societies into the proper hands.